Technology upgradation in Small Scale Sector

1387. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to announce a comprehensive policy for the Small Scale Industry and setting up of the technology upgradation fund for the SSI sectors;

(b) if so, the details of main objectives/issues likely to be incorporated in the said policy/fund;

(c) whether there is any hurdle in announcing the said policy/fund to fulfil the W.T.O. obligations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time which the said policy/fund is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A comprehensive new policy on the Small Scale Sector, including a scheme for support for technology upgradation of the SSI Sector is under finalisation.

The main objective is to formulate an integrated and balanced package of policy measures necessary to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The policy is under finalisation.

Number of SSI Units

†1388. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Small Scale Industrial units in the country was 20.82 lakh during the year 1991-92 which has increased to 31.12 lakh upto the year 1998-99;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of persons employed in these units was 129.80 lakh which has increased to 171.58 lakh in the year 1998-99;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for which the number of workers has not increased in proportion to the increase in the number of units during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates, the number of Small Scale Industrial units in the country was 20.82 lakhs during the year 1991-92. This has increased to 31.21 lakhs upto the year 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reasons for decline in the number of workers in proportion to the increase in the number of units can be attributed to new technologies of production.

Investigation in Khadi Gram Udyog Industries by Foreign Agencies

1389. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign agencies have been delegated to investigate the Khadi Gram Udyog Institutes;

(b) whether agitation has taken place due to this reason;

(c) whether some organisations have submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.